

AUXILIARY VERBS

Main theme addressed	In this lesson, you will learn about using auxiliary verbs
Key Goals	Here is an outline of what you will learn today: 1. Types of auxiliary verbs 2. How to correctly use auxiliary verbs in a positive sentence 3. How to correctly use auxiliary verbs in a negative sentence

1. Types of Auxiliary Verbs

In English, there are two main types of auxiliary verbs:

- Primary Auxiliary Verbs,
- Modal Auxiliary Verbs.

First, we'll look at primary auxiliary verbs. There are **3 primary auxiliary verbs**. They are:

- be
- have
- do

Primary auxiliary verbs are used to change other verbs in a sentence and have little meaning by themselves.

These verbs change form depending on the sentence and context they are used in. You can see the different forms for each below.

Auxiliary	be	have	do
1st person	am	have	do
2nd person	are	have	do
3rd person	is	has	does
Past (singular)	was	had	did
Past (plural)	were	had	did
Continuous	being	having	doing
Past participle	been	had	done

Next are modal auxiliary verbs. There are **12 modal auxiliary verbs**. These are:

- can
- could
- dare
- may
- must
- need
- ought
- shall
- might
- should
- will
- would

These verbs - which never change form the way most other verbs do - indicate possibility, capability, necessity, or willingness.

2. How to correctly use auxiliary verbs in a positive sentence

a) You can use auxiliary verbs in a positive sentence using the following structure:

subject + auxiliary verb + main verb + object

Example:

Subject	Auxiliary verb	Main verb	Object
I	have	made	a cake
She	is	coming	to the party
This house	was	built	10 years ago
I	can	come	to the party
He	must	work	tomorrow
These sunglasses	might	be	expensive

Exercise:

Form sentences according to the form indicated.

1. He / visit / you / tomorrow. (can)

2. The weather / change / tomorrow. (might)

3. They / go / to a concert (Present Continuous)

Answers:

1. He can visit you tomorrow.
2. The weather might change tomorrow.
3. They are listening to a concert.

b) You can use auxiliary verbs in questions using the following structure:

auxiliary verb + subject + main verb + object

Example:

Auxiliary verb	Subject	Main verb	Object
May	I	wear	my hat?
Can	you	play	the guitar?
Was	it	raining	yesterday?
Should	we	leave	now?
Must	you	take	the train?
Would	she	like	the orange coat?

Exercise:

Turn the following sentences into their interrogative form.

1. She would like a new car.

2. My father can drive a bus.

3. I may open the door for you.

Answers:

1. Would she like a new car?
2. Can my father drive a bus?
3. May I open the door for you?

3. How to correctly use auxiliary verbs in a negative sentence

You can create negative auxiliary verb forms by **adding the “not”** after the auxiliary verb.

You can see the negative for each auxiliary verb below, as well as the commonly used abbreviations for each:

Auxiliary Verb	Negative Auxiliary Verb	Abbreviation
can	can not	can't
could	could not	couldn't
dare	dare not	daren't
may	may not	may not
must	must not	mustn't
need	need not	needn't
ought	ought not	oughtn't
shall	shall not	shan't
might	might not	mightn't
should	should not	shouldn't
will	will not	won't
would	would not	wouldn't

Pay close attention to the **commonly used abbreviation of “will not”**, which is: **won't**.

Exercise:

Turn the following sentences into their negative form.

1. She would like a new car.

2. My father can drive a bus.

3. I may open the door for you.

Answers:

1. She wouldn't like a new car.
2. My father can't drive a bus.
3. I may not open the door for you.

- a) You can use negative auxiliary verbs in a declarative sentence using the following structure:

subject + (auxiliary verb + not) + main verb + object

For example:

Subject	Negative auxiliary verb	Main verb	Object
I	haven't	made	a cake
She	isn't	coming	to the party
This house	wasn't	built	10 years ago
I	can't	come	to the party
He	mustn't	work	tomorrow
These sunglasses	mighn't	be	expensive

b) You can use auxiliary verbs in negative questions using the following structure:

auxiliary verb + not + subject + main verb + object

For example:

Negative auxiliary verb	Subject	Main verb	Object
Didn't	I	wear	my hat?
Can't	you	play	the guitar?
Wasn't	it	raining	yesterday?
Shouldn't	we	leave	now?
Mustn't	you	take	the train?
Wouldn't	she	like	the pink coat?

In the examples below, the positive primary auxiliary verbs are in blue, and the negative auxiliary verbs are in orange:

I **can** come to the party. / I **can't** come to the party.

He **must** work tomorrow. / He **mustn't** work tomorrow.

These **might** be expensive. / These **might not** be expensive.

What **would** you do? / **Wouldn't** you do that?

Exercise:

Turn these positive sentences into negative sentences, by using the negative form of the auxiliary verbs:

1. I can come later.

_____.

2. She will be at home.

_____.

3. You should travel earlier than 6:00 am.

_____.

Answers:

1. I can't come later.

2. She won't be at home.

3. You shouldn't travel earlier than 6:00 am.

Learn More:

https://www.grammar-monster.com/glossary/auxiliary_verbs.htm

<https://www.talkenglish.com/grammar/auxiliary-verbs-be-do-have.aspx>

<http://guidetogrammar.org/grammar/auxiliary.htm>